

Chicago Boy Scouts of America



**City Council and Headquarters
Being Established**

**For Information Telephone
Central 6789**

Members of the National Council Boy Scouts of America

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NOTE—More to be added. Chicago needs
more representation.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
124 East Twenty-eighth St., New York City

What are the Boy Scouts?

THE BOY SCOUTS is an organization, the purpose of which is character-building, for boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen. It is an effort to get boys to appreciate the things about them, and to train them in self-reliance, manhood and good citizenship. It is Peace-Scouting these boys engage in, living as much as possible out of doors; camping, hiking and learning the secret of the woods and fields. The movement is not essentially military, but the military virtues of discipline, obedience, neatness and order are scout virtues. Endurance, self-reliance, self-control and an effort to help someone else are scout objectives. Every activity that lends itself to these aims is good Scout-craft.

The Origin of the Boy Scouts The Boy Scouts were started in England by General Sir Robert Baden-Powell. He was impressed with the fact that 46% of the boys of England were growing up without any knowledge of useful occupations, and wanted to do something that would help the boy to become a useful citizen. He emphatically stated that his intention was not the making of soldiers. In his work General Baden-Powell has touched boy life in all its interests and broadened a boy's outlook by the widest sort of activities. In two and a half years 400,000 Boy Scouts have been enrolled, and 20,000 of these have been in parade, at one time, in London. The future of the English Scouts promises even a faster growth.

The Boy Scouts in America The Scout idea has sprung up spontaneously all over America. In Canadian cities the Boy Scouts are in the thousands. In the United States, towns and cities are being swept by the idea. Gangs of boys are to be seen on every hand doing their best at Scout-craft, "doing a good turn every day to someone," and getting fun out of it. Prominent business

men and our leading educators are behind the movement, and a popular organization that needs no equipment is filling a big gap in the recreational education of the boys of America. Great as has been the success of the Boy Scouts in England, America, with its vast stretches of territory, woods and streams, furnishes a promise for a greater.

The Aim of the Boy Scouts The aim of the Boy Scouts is to supplement the various existing educational agencies, and to promote the ability in boys to do things for themselves and others. The method is summed up in the term Scout-craft, and is a combination of observation, deduction and handiness—or the ability to do. Scout-craft consists of First Aid, Life Saving, Tracking, Signaling, Cycling, Nature Study, Seamanship and other instruction. This is accomplished in games and team play, and is pleasure, not work, for the boy. The only equipment it needs is the out-of-doors, a group of boys and a LEADER.

Boy Scout's Oath "Before he becomes a scout a boy must take the scout's oath, thus:
"On my honor I promise that I will do my best
"1. To do my duty to God and my country.
"2. To help other people at all times.
"3. To obey the Scout Law."

How to Organize a Local Committee Call together the leading men of the town or city, the prominent business men, the leaders of the various religious bodies, the principals and teachers of the schools, Sunday-school superintendents and teachers, representative military men, leaders of boys' clubs, settlement workers, representatives of the charitable organizations, juvenile court, big brothers' movement, men's brotherhoods, the Y. M. C. A. and other reliable organizations and men, and organize a council to supervise the Scout movement. Make it a real work for boys of adolescent years. Guard it from the younger boy so that the older fellow may not despise it.

Chicago Boy Scout Plans

Chicago needs a City Council for the Boy Scouts of America of wide enough scope to aid in correlating and promoting a city-wide movement among the many agencies in the city doing a constructive work for boys. This City Council should be composed of interested representatives of all welfare agencies in the city—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish. In its function this council can in no way be a governing body, but is a central exchange or correlating force to render assistance in way of training Scout leaders, furnishing printed matter, uniforms, badges, etc., and in a general way unify the Scout movement in the city. Each agency forming Scout patrols is its own governing force, but through co-operation with the City Council will make possible a stronger, wider and united effort in the city, and at the same time receive strength itself. Back of the Chicago Council stands the National Council in New York, which is given in this folder. To have the backing of such men insures permanency and the proper business management. It also means a nation-wide character-building movement among boys which is independent of dominance by any one agency or man, and may thus appeal to every organization in the city.

When the City Council is established (December 1st), a City Scout Secretary, with permanent headquarters, must be secured at the earliest possible moment. This secretary must be available to every agency, and the headquarters must be common to every worker with Boy Scouts. An Executive Committee elected from the City Council will attend to all of these matters. Only as this Scout Council is representative of constructive agencies in the city, and formed by them in meeting assembled, and not by a small group of individuals, no matter how interested they may be—only in this way will the Chicago Boy Scout movement be broad enough and permanent enough to command the respect of Chicago people.

**Not in Opposition
to Existing Or-
ganizations
for Boys**

The scheme is not in any way intended to be in opposition to any existing organization. On the contrary, we want amalgamation rather than rivalry, and scouting is only intended to be used as an additional attraction by those in charge of boys' organizations of any kind. If scouting is taken up by several it may prove a bond between all. Where such organizations do not already exist it can supply a particularly simple and effective one for catching a number of boys who would otherwise have no hand to guide them.

**It is not
Sectarian**

An organization of this kind would fail in its object if it did not bring its members to a knowledge of religion—but the usual fault in such cases is the manner in which this is done. If it were treated more as a matter of everyday life and quite unsectarian it would not lose its dignity and would gain a hold. The definition of religious observance is purposely left vague in the handbook in order to give a free hand to organizations and units making use of it, so that they can give their own instructions in the matter.

**It is not
Military**

There is no military meaning attached to the name scouting. Peace scouting comprises the attributes of frontiersmen in the way of resourcefulness and self-reliance and the many other qualities which make them men among men. There is no intention of making the lads into soldiers or of teaching them blood-thirstiness. But under patriotism they will be taught that a citizen must be prepared to take his fair share among his fellows in the defense of the homeland against aggression in return for the safety and freedom enjoyed by him as an inhabitant. He who leaves this duty to others to do for him is neither playing a plucky nor a fair part.

Too much drill tends to destroy individuality, and when once it has been learnt it bores a boy who is longing to be tearing about on some enterprise or other; it blunts his keenness. Individual prowess, rather, should be promoted.

**Hints on
Starting**

In actually starting a Troop, it has been found better to start in a small way. Begin by one or two leader-men making a careful study of "Scouting for Boys," and soon as the main ideas have been grasped, get together a small number of boys, and go through with them the initial stages step by step, until the boys bubble over with scouting ideals, and until the notion of a fancy uniform and games in the country have given place to a definite desire to qualify for manhood and citizenship. These boys will make the nucleus round which to form a Troop, and should pass on their training and enthusiasm to the boys who are enlisting under them. It has been found better to obtain *distinctly older fellows for Patrol Leaders*; and the Scout Masters should invariably be men who feel the great responsibility of having boys under their charge, and the possibility of leading the boys from the moment when they enlist in the Scouts to the time they pass out again to be fully fledged men.

Finances

The finances necessary to run a Troop of Scouts should be met by the Scouts themselves. It is a main principle of scouting to teach the boys to be self-reliant, and anything which will militate against the constant sending round of the hat will be a national good.

**Points of
Interest**

1. Scouting does not consist in wearing a khaki suit or a lot of decorations. It is doing the things that are required for scout badges and the badges of merit.
2. Scouts do not wish any one to buy things for them. They buy their own equipment and pay their own way.
3. Scouts do their best to keep the Scout Oath and Law.
4. The glory of scouting is "*to do a good turn to some one every day without reward.*"
5. Scouts regard the rights of others, and do not trespass on the property or feelings of others.
6. Scouting means obedience and discipline. The boy who can't obey will never command.
7. Scouts are always busy and getting fun out of it—at work, at school, at home, at play. *Be a good Scout.*
8. Do not enroll boys under twelve years of age.

They will not stick and you will disgust the older boy. This is not a kindergarten effort.

9. Aim to secure balanced, symmetrical activities for Patrols. Remember a boy is four-sided—physical, mental, social and spiritual—in his nature. Do not miss out anywhere. Get the proper agencies to co-operate with you for these ends.

The Scout Master The Scout Master is the adult leader of a Troop. The Scout Master may begin with one Patrol. He must have a deep interest in boys, be genuine in his own life, have the ability to lead and command the boys' respect and obedience and possess some knowledge of a boy's ways. He need not be an expert on scoutcraft. The good Scout Master will discover experts for the various activities. Applications for Scout Masters' certificates may be had at the Headquarters, 124 East Twenty-eighth Street, New York City.

From the outset, the Scout Master must have the interest of each boy at heart. He must not play favorites with any of the boys in his Patrol or Troop. While there are sure to be boys in the group who will develop more rapidly than others, and whose keenness will be sure to call forth the admiration of the Scout Master, he should not permit himself to be "carried away" by the achievements of these "star boys" to such an extent that he will neglect the less aggressive boy. The latter boy is the one who needs your attention most, and your interest in him must be genuine. Every effort he makes, no matter how poor it may be, should be commended just as heartily as the better accomplishments of the more handy boy.